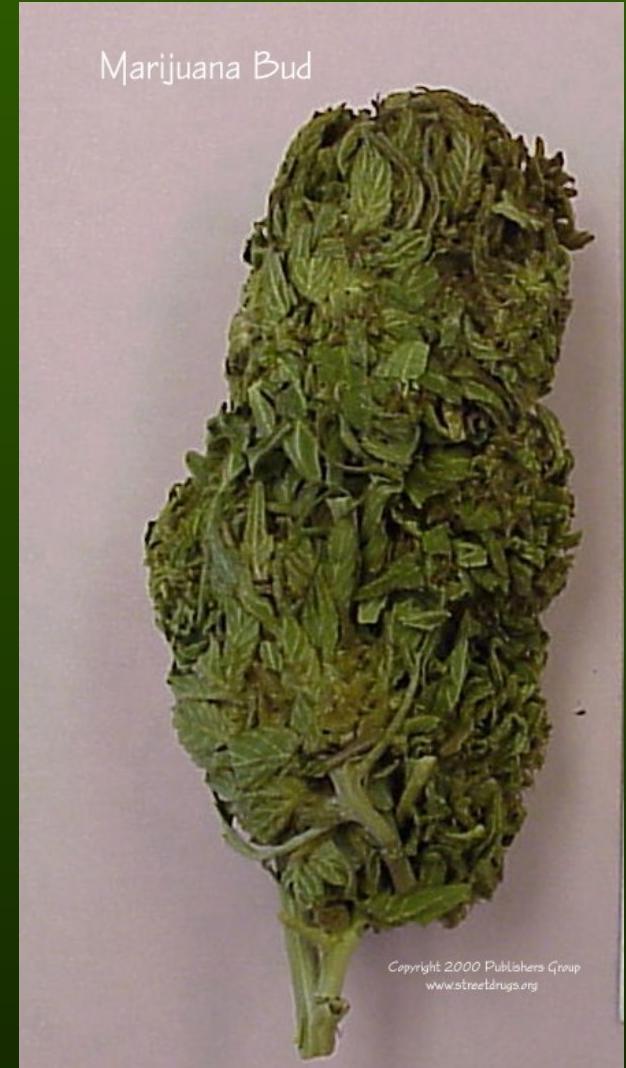


THC (MARIJUANA)



THC Update Content:

- ◆ *Introduction*
- ◆ *Marijuana Pharmacology & Effects*
- ◆ *Urinalysis & Drug Lab Procedures*

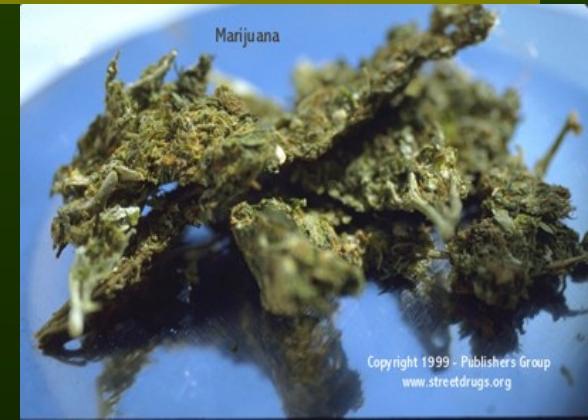


GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Reduce the impact of THC use on the army.
- ◆ Understand the effects of THC on the body and brain.
- ◆ To diminish “barracks lawyer” tales.

INTRODUCTION

- ◆ Marijuana is still the #1 illicit drug of choice in the ARMY
- ◆ Marijuana is considered to be a gateway drug to other drug use and abuse.
- ◆ Army Drug Policy - “ZERO TOLERANCE”
- ◆ ARMY DRUG USE 1998 DOD SURVEY
 - ◆ 9.8 % (7.7% is Marijuana) used in the past 12 months



Introduction: 1960's - 1970's



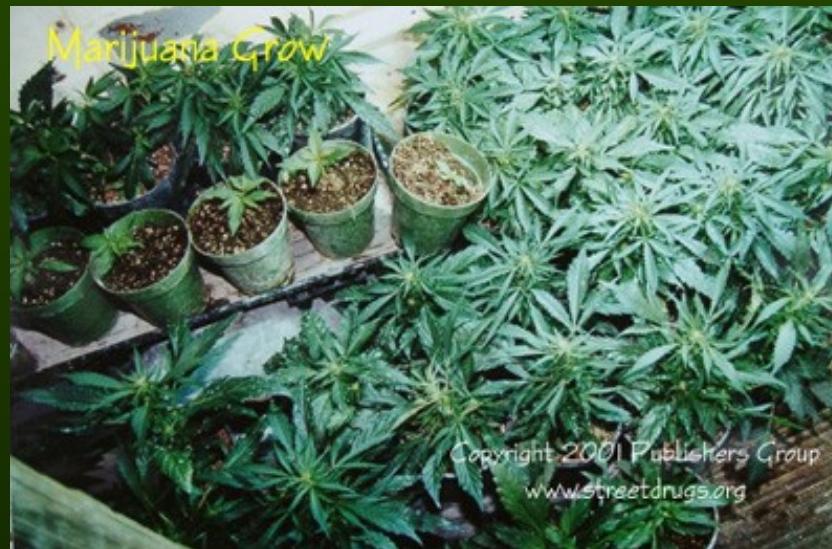
- Aftermath of Vietnam
- Drug treatment centers opened.
- A decade of change
- Drug screening labs upgraded to forensic
- Mandatory urinalysis

Introduction: War on Drugs

- ◆ 1980 33% Of The Military Reported Illicit Drug Use
- ◆ 1981 - U.S.S. NIMITZ Crash of Marine Corps EA-6B
- ◆ Autopsies Of Killed Sailors And Marines Revealed THC in Six Bodies
- ◆ DOD Declared “War On Drugs.”

Introduction: Attitudes

- ◆ Shifting attitudes among parents of today's generation who themselves used marijuana in the 60's -70's.



Introduction: Trends

- ◆ More intense patterns of marijuana abuse such as “Blunt” marijuana cigars.
- ◆ Changes in public perception about marijuana as reflected by open use of the drug in film, media, musical recordings and rock or rap videos.
- ◆ **\$\$ Marijuana can sell for \$600 an ounce, \$8,000 a pound, \$20 for a blunt cigar.**

Introduction: Trends

- ◆ Pulmonary risks of smoking marijuana are often ignored.
- ◆ Addiction is associated with alcohol and other drugs - not marijuana.
- ◆ THC is psychologically addictive - abuse and addiction is frequently denied.

Pharmacology Of Marijuana

- ◆ Marijuana is a psychoactive or mind altering drug.
- ◆ Psychoactive drugs can produce a mind state similar to psychosis.
 - ◆ Psychosis - A major mental disorder in which the personality is very seriously disorganized.

Pharmacology Of Marijuana

- ♦ Marijuana is the term used in the U.S. to refer to the cannabis plant.
- ♦ Delta 9 - Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active ingredient that causes the “high”.
- ♦ THC is much stronger today than in the 1960's:
 - ♦ 1% THC content in 1960's
 - ♦ 3 - 28% today

Pharmacology Of Marijuana

- ◆ Recent domestic report revealed 29.86% THC content.
- ◆ Much more dangerous today.
- ◆ Mixing other drugs with THC by drug dealers and users.



Three Basic Forms

- ◆ **Marijuana** - Made from the leaves, flowers or stems of the hemp plant.
- ◆ **Hash/Hashish** - Concentrated form of marijuana by compressing marijuana resins into small blocks.
- ◆ **Hash Oil** - Made by soaking marijuana in a chemical solvent (such as rubbing alcohol) and then evaporating the solvent to obtain an oil concentrate.

Pharmacology

- When smoked, the marijuana is absorbed through the capillaries in the lungs.
- When the marijuana is eaten, the chemicals travel into the small int



Acute Effects

- Euphoria
- Short Term Memory Loss
- Increased Appetite
- Bloodshot Eyes
- Dry Mouth/Throat
- Sleepiness



- Increased Heart Rate
- Loss of Coordination
- Paranoia
- Hallucinations
- Chronic Panic Attacks
- Psychosis

Acute Effects

- Marijuana smoke contains more tar and cancer causing substances than tobacco smoke.
- Smoking one joint = five cigarettes.
- With one puff you inhale 150 cancer - causing substances and twice as much tar as with tobacco.

Acute Effects

- **Smoking marijuana can cause:**
 - Bronchitis
 - Lung cancer
 - Brain damage
- **Smoking marijuana causes some neurotransmitters to clump up and become inactive.**
- **Neurotransmitters send messages throughout the brain for body functions.**
- **Interferes with thinking, ability to focus, memory lapses.**

Long Term Effects - Male Specific

- Reduces male hormone testosterone.
- Sex organs do not function properly.
- Reduces sperm count in adult males.
- Ages 10-20 is when male sex organs are maturing.
- Use can cause long-term negative affects on sex organs.

Long Term Effects - Female Specific

- Testosterone increases causing facial hair, more body hair and acne.
- Decreased sexual pleasure.
- Disrupts menstrual cycles and ovulation.

“Our First Line of Defense”



The ARMY
URINALYS
IS
PROGRAM





Army Drug Screening Labs

- Every specimen screened for the following drugs:
 - THC, Cocaine, Amphetamines (includes Methamphetamines, Ecstasy and other designer drugs)
 - At least one of the following:
 - Opiates (Codeine, Morphine, Heroin)
 - PCP
 - LSD
 - Barbiturates
 - Steroids can be checked upon request at the UCLA Olympic analytical drug lab.



Army Drug Lab Procedures

- All samples are checked
- Each drug has a cut-off level established by DOD.
- 3rd verification check (confirmation) - if positive 1st & 2nd time.



Army Drug Lab Procedures

- **Positive samples:**
 - Stored in original bottle and frozen for 1 year
 - Can be extended upon request
 - Suspected adulteration:
 - Message sent to command stating adulteration
 - C.O. Can still process or follow-up with another sample



THC and Alcohol

- Alcohol's relationship to other drugs
- Alcohol -member of depressant family
- Synergistic with other drugs
- $1 + 1 = 3 ??$
- Cross addictive to other drugs
- Cross tolerant to many other drugs
- Effects on judgment can lead to illicit THC or other drug use



UNITED STATES ARMY CENTER FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS



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